# ANNUAL REPORT
1982

## Workplace Safety and Health

MG-10273

# 1982 Annual Report

# of the

# Workplace Safety and Health Division

MANITOBA

Her Honour Pearl McGonigal
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

Your Honour:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Workplace Safety and Health Division. This report details the Division's programs and activities for the 1982 calendar year.

Yours sincerely,

Jay Cowan
Minister responsible for
Workplace Safety and Health

MANITOBA

Honourable Jay Cowan
Minister responsible for
Workplace Safety and Health

Dear Sir:

It is my pleasure to present to you the Workplace Safety and Health Division's Annual Report for the calendar year ending December 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted.

Ron McBryde
Deputy Minister

# Workplace Safety and Health Division

## Annual Report 1982


Organization Chart ..... 5

Introduction ..... 7

Administrative Services ..... 7

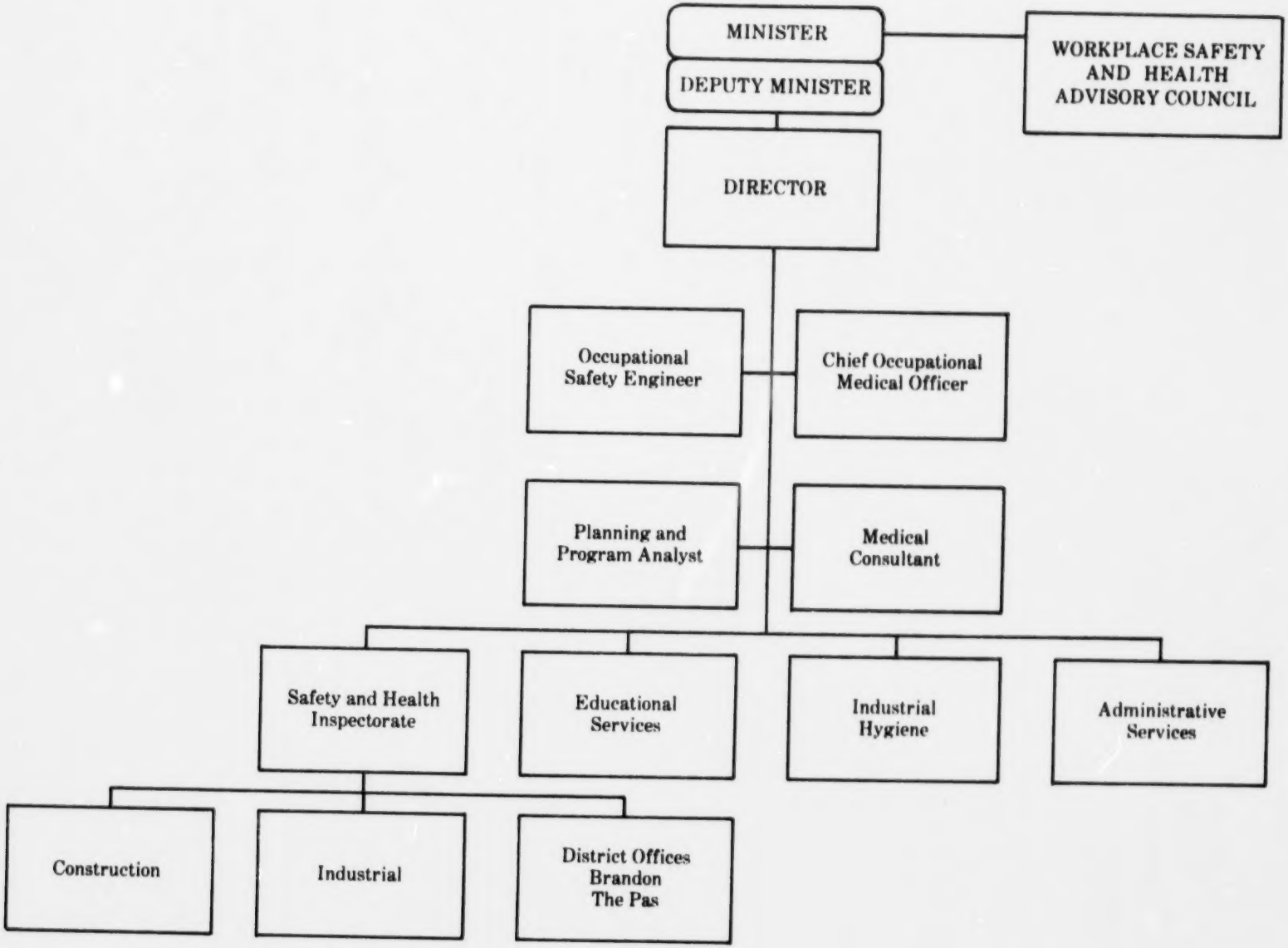
Occupational Engineering ..... 7

Workplace Safety and Health Inspection ..... 8

Educational Services ..... 8

Industrial Hygiene ..... 9

Occupational Medicine ..... 10


MINISTER
DEPUTY MINISTER
WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
DIRECTOR
Occupational Safety Engineer
Chief Occupational Medical Officer
Planning and Program Analyst
Medical Consultant
Safety and Health Inspectorate
Educational Services
Industrial Hygiene
Administrative Services
Construction
Industrial
District Offices
Brandon
The Pas

# Introduction
# Workplace Safety and Health Division

## Director: J.E. Reimer
1 Support Staff

THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION of the Department of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health, is responsible for implementation of The Workplace Safety and Health Act, Chapter W-210 and its regulations. The Division's operation is divided into four basic operational functions: Safety and Health Inspectorate, Educational Services, Industrial Hygiene, and Occupational Medicine, as well as administrative and engineering support functions.

The Division's objectives are:
- To eliminate unsafe work conditions, unsafe work practices and occupational diseases by direct inspection and by consultation with employers and employees.
- To promote safety and health education of workers and employers.
- To recognize, evaluate and control those environmental factors or stresses arising in or from the workplace, which may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort among workers.
- To promote the prevention of workplace-induced diseases and illnesses.
- To offer educational services and technical assistance to safety committees.
- To provide medical consultation support to other government departments, industrial physicians and to the public.

# Administrative Services Branch

## Branch Head: R.M. Baxter
1 Support Staff

The Administrative Services Branch provides operational and administrative support for other branches of the Workplace Safety and Health Division. Primary activities consist of the co-ordination and administration of clerical and financial services on behalf of the entire Division.

# Occupational Engineering Services

## Occupational Safety Engineer: Grant McCaughey, P. Eng.

Occupational Engineering Services performs the following functions:
- providing consultative services and technical evaluation to improve safety at workplaces;
- developing new regulations and codes of practice;
- developing and distributing print material such as information circulates, safety bulletins and hazard alerts to workplaces; and,
- reviewing regulations, national safety standards, and various other safety and health topics, in co-operation with other government departments.

The Occupational Safety Engineer's primary function is to serve as an engineering consultant and provide technical evaluation of physical hazards in the workplace, which are of unusual complexity or sophistication. This consultation was undertaken at a number of worksites, where specific recommendations were instituted to provide improved safety at the workplace. This included topics such as mobile equipment, excavation work, material hoisting, swing stages and scaffolding, guardrails, demolition work, falsework and temporary structures.

In addition to this, a significant amount of time was spent on the development of new regulations and codes of practice. During 1982, the Forestry, Logging and Log Hauling regulation was instituted as well as a Code of practice for Excavation and Confined Entry Work. Several regulations, including the Construction Safety Regulations and the "ROPS" (Roll-over Protective Structures) Regulation, were also under development in the past year. Preliminary drafts of the Asbestos and First-Aid Regulations were also prepared and reviewed.

In consultation with management and labour representatives two crane log books were developed, one dealing with mobile cranes and the other with overhead cranes. These logbooks are available to all parties and have offered a significant improvement in safety maintenance record keeping. A number of joint interdepartmental projects, including such issues as the review of the Mines Regulations and other safety and health topics, were also undertaken during the year. The Division was also active on National standards work, most specifically CSA Standard development.

Information circulars and safety bulletins dealing with a number of varying concerns in the workplace were developed and distributed to employers and workers.

# Workplace Safety and Health Inspection

## Branch Head: Cam Younger

4 Supervisors
18 Safety and Health Officers
(Includes District Offices The Pas and Brandon)
1 Support Staff

The Workplace Safety and Health Inspection Branch, through inspection activities of workplaces in the province, identifies visible and suspected hazards and issues orders and/or recommendations for remedial action where the need is indicated. The Branch is divided into two parts, namely, Construction and Industry, with each safety and health officer possessing a degree of competence and experience in their fields.

To accomplish this mandate, the Branch carries out the following activities:

— responds to accidents in the workplace and other complaints and concerns;
— provides guidance to promote safe practices and working conditions;
— presents safety and health awareness courses to management and labour;
— provides training to Workplace Safety and Health committees.

The Branch provides a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week response to accidents, complaints and/or concerns directed to the Division. The Branch also acts on complaints and concerns expressed by both employers and workers and provides guidance to promote safe practices and working conditions. In 1982, safety and health awareness courses were presented to various industries and members of some Workplace Safety and Health Committees were trained to recognize and bring about improvement to safety and health conditions in their individual workplaces.

Safety and health officers in the Industrial component of this Branch are responsible for groupings as established under the Workers' Compensation Board. This is a reasonably new innovation and one which hopefully will lead to a further degree of competence when carrying out inspection activities.

Statistical information, available from the Workers' Compensation Board, is now being used by the Inspection Branch to arrive at priorities for Inspection Branch activities.

| Activity Summary | 1981 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|
| Improvement Orders | 6824 | 6339 |
| Stop Work Orders | 61 | 74 |
| Stop Work Warnings | 133 | 182 |
| Meetings and Training Sessions | 1004 | 1447 |
| Inspections and Re-Inspections | 8000 | 8692 |

# Educational Services Branch

## Head: Dan Mars

1 Educational Services Consultant
4 Educational Services Officers
1 Educational Resource Person
1 Support Staff

The basic philosophical focus of Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Laws is to promote joint worker and employer participation and cooperation in the development and maintenance of a safe and healthful working environment. To assist in accomplishing this objective, the Educational Services Branch performs the following functions:

— programs, delivers and provides educational resources, courses and seminars to workers, employers, safety personnel and the public;
— monitors the developments in safety and health fields in Manitoba and other jurisdictions; and,
— assists in development of legislation and regulations.

Recent seminars have covered the following subjects: Workplace Safety and Health Committee Structuring and Responsibilities, Injury/Accident Causation and Hazard Recognition, Occupational Health and Safety programming in schools and community colleges, Inplant/Inservice Staff Development and Educational Agricultural Safety and Health Awareness Programs. The Education Resource Centre provides information pertaining to the free use of audio-visual aids, films, etc., data printout material services through our terminal hook-up with the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Centre and other related library services.

The Educational Services Branch conducted 184 occupational safety and health seminars in industrial safety awareness, injury/accident investigation techniques, safety audit and plant inspection procedures, entry into confined spaces and excavations, safe work practices and procedures in forklift operations, hearing conservation, chain/sling and wire rope hoisting inspection systems and agricultural safety and health programs.

This Branch conducted 60 Safety and Health Committee Seminars, both in Part I and Part II series which covered committee responsibilities under The Workplace Safety and Health Act, Inspections, Monitoring and Auditing of the workplace, throughout the province.

This Branch also conducted 133 Safety and Health Awareness Sessions in the schools and community colleges. On-the-job in-plant courses were conducted in 61 specific industrial areas.

Altogether, 437 educational sessions were conducted throughout the province in addition to 653 meetings in the Industrial section and 341 in the Construction section.

| Activity Summary | 1981 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|
| Occupational Safety and Health Seminars | 124 | 184 |
| Safety and Health Committee Seminars | 66 | 60 |
| Safety and Health Sessions in Schools and Community Colleges | 152 | 133 |
| Inplant Safety and Health Courses | 144 | 61 |
| Total Training and Educational Sessions | 486 | 437 |

# Industrial Hygiene Branch

## Acting Head: Anne Skuba

7 Industrial Hygienists
1 Occupational Health Nurse Consultant
1 Support Staff

The role of the Industrial Hygiene Branch is to monitor and evaluate the workplace environment for chemical, physical, biological, ergonomic and psycho-social workplace stresses, and to follow-up and interview workers who have experienced adverse effects which may be related to workplace exposures.

In order to provide this service, the staff of the Industrial Hygiene Branch:

- take samples and measure the levels of physical, chemical and biological agents in the workplace;
- interpret data for management and workers;
- provide technical advice on the quality of the workplace environment;
- issue recommendations and/or orders designed to reduce or eliminate the offending agents in the workplace;
- follow-up workers who have reported adverse effects of exposure;
- assist in the review and formulation of policies and legislation;
- provide technical assistance to workplace safety and health officers; and
- participates in worker education.

During 1982, the Industrial Hygiene Branch was involved in drafting revisions to the regulations dealing with asbestos, first-aid, hearing conservation, toxic substances and spray painting.

This Branch is regularly involved in monitoring for radiation, carcinogens, toxic dust, fumes, mists and gases, nuisance dusts and odors and for ergonomic factors. In addition, there is consultation, on these and other subjects, with multi-disciplinary groups and individuals from government, management, labour and the public.

There were 165 Industrial Hygiene surveys conducted during 1982. Numerous meetings were held with Industry, Commerce, Associations and Agencies to discuss the proposed revisions to the First-Aid, Hearing Conservation and Asbestos Regulations. Staff members also participated by teaching courses, seminars and workshops.

# Occupational Medicine

## Occupational Medical Consultant: W. Krywulak

1 Support Staff

The Occupational Medical Consultant fulfills the following functions:

- apprises the Division of relevant issues or advancement in occupational medicine;
- evaluates present or potential health concerns affecting workers and recommends preventive or corrective action to the Division;
- evaluates medical implications of both existing and proposed workplace safety and health programs;
- acts as the medical authority under The Workplace Safety and Health Act relative to the examination and licensing of workers under Manitoba Regulation 209/77;
- counsels the staff of the Division on medical matters relevant to workers and the workplace;
- provides medical consultations in the field of occupational medicine to industrial physicians, government departments, and to the public;
- employs professional initiative to make recommendations on medical matters which are relevant and consistent with the goals of The Workplace Safety and Health Act;
- performs other medical assignments or duties as may be required by the legislation or the administration of the Division;
- acts as medical advisor to the Atomic Energy Control Board; and
- acts as medical inspector under the provincial X-ray regulation.

During 1982, the Occupational Medical Consultant continued to administer the silicosis regulation requiring prescribed occupational workers exposed to fibrogenic dusts, such as silica and asbestos, to undergo medical tests. There were 4,995 x-rays and 5,015 lung function tests given. In addition, substantial revision of this program was accomplished and a different frequency of testing was instituted for both high and low risk occupational groups.

Medical consultations were provided to industrial physicians, industries, workers and other parties. Occupational health problems in different work settings were frequently discussed. In addition, a detailed review of exposure records of the personnel exposed to ionizing radiation, was carried out on a quarterly basis.

Close co-operation with the medical officers of the Workers' Compensation Board, the Mines Branch, the Environmental Management Division and the Health Department was maintained. The Branch also provided assistance in arranging industrial field trips for groups of medical students.